

2010
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
NORTH FORK and BOISE BASIN S&G ALLOTMENTS
Idaho City Ranger District
Boise National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) provide direction for livestock management and how it will be conducted on Boise Basin S&G and North Fork S&G allotments during the 2010 grazing season.

Allotment	Permittee	Permit Number
Boise Basin S&G	Frank Shirts, Jr.	00263
North Fork S&G	Frank Shirts, Jr.	00263

Permitted Use				
Permittee	Allotment	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
Frank Shirts, Jr.	Boise Basin S&G	2000	Ewe/lambs	6/1 – 10/20
	Boise Basin S&G	14	Horses	6/1 – 10/20
Frank Shirts, Jr.	North Fork S&G	1400	Ewe/lambs	5/29 – 10/25
	North Fork S&G	3170	Ewe/lambs	6/6 – 10/15
	North Fork S&G	130	Rams	6/1 – 10/1
	North Fork S&G	7	Pack Stock	5/29 – 10/25
	North Fork S&G	21	Horses	6/4 – 10/15
Trailing Provisions (50% On Portion of on/off provisions)				
	Robie Cr and Dead Dog Cr. Units	1100	Ewe/lambs	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	3470	Ewe/lambs	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	4570	Dry Ewes	10/15 – 10/30
	Robie Cr and Dead Dog Cr Units	7	Pack Stock	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	21	Pack Stock	5/15 – 5/30
	Robie Cr., Dead Dog Cr., Dunningun Cr., and Deer Cr. Units	21	Pack Stock	10/15 – 10/30

Authorized Use for the 2010 Grazing Season				
Allotment	Band	No. of Livestock	Livestock Class	Permitted Season
North Fork S&G	1	930	Ewe/lambs	4/24 – 8/4
North Fork S&G	1	7	Pack/Saddle	4/24 – 8/4
North Fork S&G	2	920	Ewe/lambs	5/5 – 8/5 – (50-50)
North Fork S&G	2	7	Pack/Saddle	5/5 – 8/5 – (50-50)
North Fork S&G	3	1660	Bucking	8/6 – 10/5
North Fork S&G	3	7	Pack/Saddle	8/6 – 10/5
North Fork S&G	4	920	Ewe/lambs	5/25 – 8/10
North Fork S&G	4	7	Pack/Saddle	5/25 – 8/10
North Fork S&G	5	930	Ewe/lambs	6/1 – 8/11
North Fork S&G	5	7	Pack/Saddle	6/1 – 8/11
North Fork S&G	6	1750	Bucking	8/12 – 10/15
North Fork S&G	6	7	Pack/Saddle	8/12 – 10/15
Boise Basin S&G	7	920	Ewe/Lambs	6/3 – 8/20
Boise Basin S&G	7	7	Pack/Saddle	6/3 – 8/20
Boise Basin S&G	8	1200	Yearlings	6/15 – 8/20
Boise Basin S&G	8	7	Pack/Saddle	6/15 – 8/20
Boise Basin S&G	9	1950	Bucking	8/21 – 10/20
Boise Basin S&G	9	7	Pack/Saddle	8/21 – 10/20
North Fork S&G	10	915	Ewe/Lambs	5/1 – 8/18
North Fork S&G	10	7	Pack/Saddle	5/1 – 8/18
North Fork S&G	11	915	Bucking	8/19 – 10/20
North Fork S&G	11	7	Pack/Saddle	8/19 – 10/20

Trailing provisions are authorized (50% on portion of on/off provisions) prior to and after the scheduled dates in the above table.

Non-Use: The permittee may run a variable number of sheep up to 9,337 sheep months of grazing use on the Boise Basin S&G Allotment, 20,935 sheep months of grazing use on the North Fork S&G Allotment, and 4808 sheep months of grazing while trailing within the numbers and season identified above. Non-use will not be identified unless no grazing is to occur on an allotment for the 2010 grazing season.

Band Identification:

North Fork Boise River Sheep Allotment:

Sheep Bands

Band 1 Lorenzo - 4/24/10 – 8/4/10 - 930 ewe/lambs - unload at Arrowrock & ship at Meadow Creek
Band 2 Fredrico – 5/5/10 – 8/5/10 - 920 ewe/lambs – Trail Boise Front & ship at Meadow Creek
Band 3 (Bands 1&2) - 8/6/10 - 10/5/10 -1660 dry ewes – ship at Meadow Creek and trail off Forest
Band 4 Sam – 5//25/10 – 8/10/10 -920 ewe/lambs - Pine Creek and ship at Crooked River
Band 5 Raul - 6/1/10 – 8/11/10 930 ewe/lambs – Bear Run and ship at Crooked River
Band 6 Bands (4&5) – 8/12/10 – 10/15/10 – 1750 – Crooked River and trail off Forest
Band 10 Justino – 5/1/10 – 8/18/10 – 915 ewe/lambs – unload at Alexander Flat & ship at Swanholm
Band 11 Justino – 8/19/10 – 10/20/10 – 915 dry ewes – ship at Swanholm and trail off Forest

Permitted livestock brands: (if paint brands are used)

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock: North Fork Boise River Sheep Allotment:

Pack Stock

Band 1 4/24/10 – 8/4/10 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 2 5/5/10 – 8/5/10 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 3 8/6/10 - 10/5/10 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 4 5/25/10 - 08/10/10 - 7 head horse/mules
Band 5 6/1/10 – 8/11/10 - 7 head horses/mules
Band 6 8/12/10 – 10/15/10 – 7 horses/mules
Band 10 5/1/10 – 8/18/10 – 7 horses and mules
Band 11 8/19/10 – 10/20/10/ - 7 horses and mules

Band Identification:

Boise Basin Sheep Allotment:

Sheep Bands

Band 7 Orlando – 6/3/10 – 8/20/10 – 920 ewe/lambs – Bogus Basin and ship at Clear Creek
Band 8 Yearlings – 6/15/10 – 8/20/10 – 1200 yearlings – Join up with ewe/lamb band at Clear Creek
Band 9 (Bands 7&8) – 8/21/10 – 10/20/10 dry ewes – ship at Clear Creek and trail off Forest

Permitted livestock brands: (if paint brands are used)

Permitted Pack and Saddle Stock:

Pack Stock

Band 7 6/3/10 – 8/20/10 - 7 head of horses/mules
Band 8 6/15/10 – 8/20/10 - 7 head of horses/mules
Band 9 8/21/10 – 10/20/10 - 7 head of horses/mules

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a)."

Procedures For Modifying AOI. Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist or the Idaho City District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

All hay, straw, and mulch products used on the Boise National Forest must be certified as weed free or weed seed free by a qualified inspector of the state of Idaho or neighboring states which have weed-free or crop certification programs (Region Special Order Number:04-00-097).

PREVIOUS YEAR GRAZING RESULTS

Band #1 – Ewe/Lamb – 930 Ewes – Arrowrock to Meadow Creek
Band #2 – Ewe/Lamb – 930 Ewes – (Band did not graze on Forest in 2009)
Band #3 – Ewe/Lamb – 900 Ewes – Alexander Flat to Swanholm
Band #4 – Ewe/Lamb – 920 Ewes – South of Thorne Creek to Meadow Creek
Band #5 – Ewe/Lamb – 930 Ewes – Bear Run to Crooked River
Band #6 – Ewe/Lamb – 910 Ewes – Pine Creek to Crooked River
Band #7 – Ewe/Lamb – 920 Ewes – Pine Creek to Clear Creek
Band #8 – (#1 & #4) – Bucking – 1600 Ewes – Meadow Creek and trail home
Band #9 – (#7) - Bucking – 1700 – Ewes – Clear Creek and trail home
Band#10 – (#5 & #6) – Bucking – 1700 Ewes – Crooked River and trail home
Band#11- (#3) – Bucking – 1700 Ewes – Swanholm and trail home

Allotment Inspection Monitoring

(See Inspection Notes)

7/9/2009 – Pilot Peak, Summit Flat, Clear Creek, Coulter Summit Flat, Clear Creek Corrals, Center ville, Star Ranch, Boise Ridge Road, Crumley Gulch, and Porter Creek.

7/13/2009 – Beaver Creek, Kempner Ranch, Crooked River, Crooked River Corrals, Headquarters, Barber Flat, North Fork Boise River, Meadow Creek Corrals, Bald Mountain, Thorne Butte, and Pine Creek.

7/31/2009 – Granite Creek, Meadow Creek Corrals, Thorne Creek, Bannock Creek, and Pine Creek.

8/4/2009 – Beaver Creek, Kempner Ranch Crooked River, Bear Creek, Bear River, Deer Park, North Fork Boise River, Barber Flat, Alexander Flat, Rabbit Creek, Meadow Creek, and Meadow Creek Corrals.

8/5/2009 – Meadow Creek Corrals, Meadow Creek, Thorne Creek, Bannock Creek, and Pine Creek.

8/19/2009 – Grimes Creek, Centerville, Pioneerville, Clear Creek, Clear Creek Corrals, Coulter Summit, Wilson Peak, Freeman Peak, and Pilot Peak.

9/1/2009 – Rabbit Creek, North Fork Boise River, Barber Flat, Alexander Flat, and Middle Fork Boise River.

9/15/2009 – Beaver Creek, Kempner Ranch, Crooked River, Crooked River Corrals, Headquarters, Rabbit Creek, Meadow Creek, Meadow Creek Corrals, and Granite Creek.

9/17/2009 – Warm Springs Ridge, Elk Creek, Deer Creek, Wolf Creek, Pioneerville, Star Ranch, and Horseshoe Bend.

9/22/2009 – Granite Creek, Rabbit Creek, and North Fork Rabbit Creek.

9/24/2009 – Crooked River, Pikes Fork, Trapper Flat, Bear River, Big Silver Creek, and Graham.

BILLING

FEES – The grazing fee for sheep is \$0.27 per head month. The fee for pack and saddle stock is \$1.35 per head month.

PAYMENT - Confirmation of payment through the "lock box" process is required and must be received before livestock can enter any National Forest System lands. In order to meet this requirement, bills need to be paid on approximately April 15 of each year.

REFUNDS – If permitted livestock are required to leave the allotment early due to excess utilization, drought or other reasons as determined by the Forest Officer, a refund may be requested. A written request for refund must be submitted to the District Ranger if this situation occurs.

LIVESTOCK ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDES

COMMUNICATION – The Range Specialist or Range Technician is the Ranger's Representative for the Idaho City Ranger District. Notify the Range Specialist or Technician at least 5 days in advance of the date, time and place where each band will enter the allotment. The livestock will be counted when

being placed on the allotment. The Rancher's Representative must communicate with the Ranger's Representative on a regular basis, and keep the Forest Service informed of sheep numbers, routes, locations, shipping dates, grazing and predatory problems.

MANAGEMENT – High Intensity, low duration once over lightly grazing. Livestock management will emphasize moving sheep in a timely manner: (1) Do not graze or use any area more than once per year. (2) Bedgrounds are to be used only 1 night and camps are to be moved every 3 to 4 days to facilitate the proper movement of the band. (3) Do not "noon," "shade," "bed," or graze sheep and pack stock within 100 yards of riparian areas. (4) After watering the livestock, remove them from the riparian area. (5) Streams, lakes, ponds, rivers or any area within the influence of water must be left with at least a 4-inch stubble height for grasses. Herders should know what is ahead. Practice open or loose herding and minimize the use of herding dogs to decrease soil displacement.

UTILIZATION – If utilization limits are reached prior to the scheduled off dates, sheep will be removed from the allotment early. In addition, it is expected that trailing off the allotments will begin early enough to satisfy the off-forest dates in October.

STREAMBANK UTILIZATION - Will be measured along the "greenline" in riparian areas. The standard of measurement for riparian areas will be maximum use 45 percent, 4 inches stubble height of hydric greenline species remaining after livestock are removed from riparian areas. A safe, easy way to visualize this is "Graze half, and leave half of the grasses. To prevent exceeding these standards, it is important to begin moving livestock slightly before this limit is reached. In the flats or meadows adjoining riparian areas and/or uplands areas, we will adhere to the Forest Plan standard of 40 percent utilization for early season and 50 percent for late season pasture use.

UPLAND INSPECTIONS AND UTILIZATION MONITORING – It is the responsibility of the permittee to periodically monitor and document utilization (stubble height) as shown on the attached Monitoring Plan. Monitoring of upper elevations (40-50 percent utilization) will need to be jointly initiated to prevent over-use of the vegetation. The Forest Service will periodically check the permittee's utilization monitoring to ensure good land stewardship and perform documentation. At times, the Permittee and the Forest Service will jointly inspect range conditions.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS – The permittee is responsible for annual maintenance of all range improvements listed in Part 3 of your TERM GRAZING PERMIT. All listed range improvements must be maintained for functionality, and a neat, clean appearance. The Forest Service shall provide all necessary materials for construction or reconstruction of range improvements. You must provide all incidental materials and labor for normal maintenance. Anything above normal maintenance should be discussed with the Ranger's Representative so that a plan for repairs will be completed.

SALTING - The placement of salt is to be used as a management tool in helping to minimize livestock use in riparian areas, tree plantations, and to distribute the livestock. Do not place salt next to roads, trails, and tree plantations or water. Salt must be placed in containers to prevent leaching and trampling of salt grounds. When salting, attempt to use the correct amount so that all salt is consumed by the livestock that same day. This helps eliminate damage to the soil caused by wildlife use of leftover.

RANGE READINESS – Heavy snows or a prolonged cool spring could result in delays in range readiness. This could require later than scheduled turnout dates. Light snows or unseasonably warm springs could result in an opportunity to begin the grazing season early. The Forest Service will notify you at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled turnout date.

CARCASSES - When sheep, saddle or pack animal carcasses are located near campgrounds, roads or water reasonable and appropriate action must be taken to remove any carcasses. The permittee

will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate for each site specific instance. Although the Forest Service recognizes that disposal of carcasses is not always feasible in many situations there are a number of reasonable options available for the disposal of single or multiple carcasses.

FOREST ROADS and TRAILS - Forest roads and trails used for trailing of sheep and saddle stock must be cleared and restored to their original condition immediately after use.

GARBAGE – All garbage generated by the present herder, or previous herders must be cleaned up by the camp tender for the ranch foreman to haul away. All garbage will be hauled by the Ranch Foreman to a county waste disposal facility. Any garbage left on the permittee's allotment reflects on his and the Forest Service's ability and interest in being a good land steward.

COORDINATION AND COOPERATION –

1. In cooperation with the State of Idaho, all feed, hay or straw brought to the allotments must be certified weed-free.
2. Report any known invasive plants in your grazing areas.
3. Report areas you have accidentally over-used so the Forest Service is aware of a critical situation before an unhappy public makes us aware of it. This will keep the Forest Service up to date and provide the opportunity to repair the damage if necessary. In addition, it will reflect more positively on you as a good land manager.
4. It is recommended that the permittee use GPS units to record each camp or utilization monitoring site area during the grazing season.

REQUIRED REPORTING – Enclosed are yearend grazing reports for you to record actual use data and range improvement maintenance for the 2010 grazing season for the North Fork and Boise Basin S&G Allotments. You need to record the date and number of sheep turned onto each allotment, the number and date sheep are removed from the allotment, and estimate the time and cost of management actions including livestock herding and improvement maintenance associated with the allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvements. This report should be returned to the Emmett Ranger District no later than December 1, 2010.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREST PLAN – The Boise Basin and North S&G Allotments will be managed to achieve the Desired Future Conditions as described in the revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Boise National Forest. All permitted actions including grazing will comply with standards shown in this revised Forest Plan.

Utilization standards from the revised Forest Plan are as follows:

Maximum forage utilization of representative areas within each pasture shall not exceed the values shown at the end of the grazing season. Variation in utilization standards in order to achieve vegetative management objectives shall occur with a site-specific or project level decision according to direction in FSM 1922.5.

1. Riparian Areas: Maximum 45 percent use of hydric greenline species.
2. Upland Vegetative Cover Types: Early season or season long pastures – 40 percent use. Vegetative slow growth, after seed ripe conditions, or late season pastures – 50 percent use.

FIRE – Never leave campfires unattended. To meet Forest Service requirements, wood smoke, from camp stoves must be filtered through a spark arrestor screen with 3/8 inch or smaller mesh. Employees must be kept informed of the current fire situation and the permittee's fire prevention responsibility. The Forest Service will advise the permittee when special fire restriction orders become effective.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2010 GRAZING SEASON

CLOSED AREAS

1. Rock Creek Project Area, Rock Creek natural Area and the Meadow Creek Research Natural Areas are closed to grazing.
2. Sunset Lookout is closed to grazing as well as the area around lookout's spring or water supply.
3. Black A, grazing unit there will be no grazing allowed in Ninemeyer Creek, Pool Creek, and the unnamed drainage immediately adjacent to, and east of Pool Creek. There have been slides, unrelated to grazing, in these areas. This area is prone to damage due to loose granitic soils, on steep, dry south facing slopes
4. Thorne Butte area is closed for resource protection.

HIGH ELEVATION SLOPES

High elevation slopes and ridges such as the Coulter Summit, Wilson Peak, Freeman Peak and Pilot Peak areas have a short growing season. Single pass, light browsing in these high elevation areas is desirable to reduce impacts on plant growth and reproduction.

HIGHWAY 21 CORRIDOR

Do not graze sheep for extended periods along the highway 21 corridor.

BULL TROUT SPAWNING AREAS

Avoid all known bull trout spawning/early rearing areas after August 15th. Trailing, watering, grazing, and bedding of livestock within these areas after August 15th is prohibited. See Appendix 1, Bull trout focal habitat to be avoided after August 15.

ASPEN STANDS

Avoid using aspen stands as bedgrounds. Single pass, light browsing in aspen stands would be sufficient to protect and enable continued aspen clone replacement

Research monitoring has observed impacts to isolated aspen clones (stands) from sheep grazing activities. Impacts were primarily in the form of browsing of suckers (vegetative reproducing aspen stems) to the extent that individual suckers were or suffered complete consumption of the year's new leader growth. The end result was the stunting and or loss of annual reproductive effort by the residual over story aspen stands. Over time, continued browsing in this manner would effectively prevent replacement of maturing and dying over story aspen trees. In the absence of reproductive replacement, individual aspen clones would be lost.

NATIVE SEED COLLECTION SITES

Seed collection on the Idaho City Ranger District is planned at only one location for 2010. The target area is Alexander Flat on the Middle Fork Boise River.. Five collection sites were established in 2004, and then collected from in 2005. Request that livestock are not grazed or trailed within a one mile radius of these sites (See Appendix 2). Reconnaissance for new seed collection sites will also be occurring in an expanded area along the Middle Fork, focusing primarily on grasses and forbs on the more open southerly slopes. Seed collection may occur throughout this area, but no restrictions on grazing are requested at this time outside the Alexander Flat target area. Questions on the specifics of the collection sites should be directed to the Idaho City Botanist, Kathryn (Kay) Beall, 208/392-3738

PLANTATION PROTECTION FROM TRAILING AND GRAZING IN THE WARM SPRINGS AREA

In as much as possible, avoid grazing and trailing through plantations (planted 2006-2009) in the Gregory burn area and the Rye Flat timber sale area. Plantation locations are shown on the attached map (Warm Springs Ridge Plantations). If avoidance is not totally possible, move sheep through as little of plantation area as practicable, and minimize duration of grazing and animal congregation. See Appendix 3.

WOLVES

In cooperation with other government agencies the Forest Service requires the following procedures be implemented each grazing season so that campenders are required to:

1. Keep camp meat in coolers and not hung.
2. Burn, bury, or pack out food leftovers, bones, garbage etc. including food not consumed by dogs accompanying the herders.
3. On the occasion of sheep, saddle or pack stock carcasses you must take reasonable and appropriate action to dispose of them where they will not serve as an attractant to predators. The permittee will contact the District Ranger's Representative to discuss the problem and determine what action would be appropriate.

We also recommend that you work with IDF&G and Wildlife Services to implement other effective preventative actions to reduce the risk of depredation.

Questions about what can or cannot be done in reference to defending flocks, harassing wolves, or shooting wolves should be directed to Jon Rachael at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Headquarters Office in Boise, Idaho (208 334-3700); Todd Grimm, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Boise, Idaho (208 378-5077); or local Wildlife Services contacts. Permittees should continue working with their local Wildlife Services representative on depredation issues.

These Annual Operating Instructions for Shirt's Sheep Company's Term Grazing Permit are consistent with the Boise National Forest Plan. If you need further clarification of any portion of these Instructions, or need to alter this plan to fit your grazing season, notify the North Zone Rangeland Management Specialist at 208-365-7012 or the Idaho City District Ranger at 208-392-6681. We appreciate your cooperation, and look forward to a good season.

Signatures

John Erickson

5/8/2010

Date

District Ranger

Permittee signature:

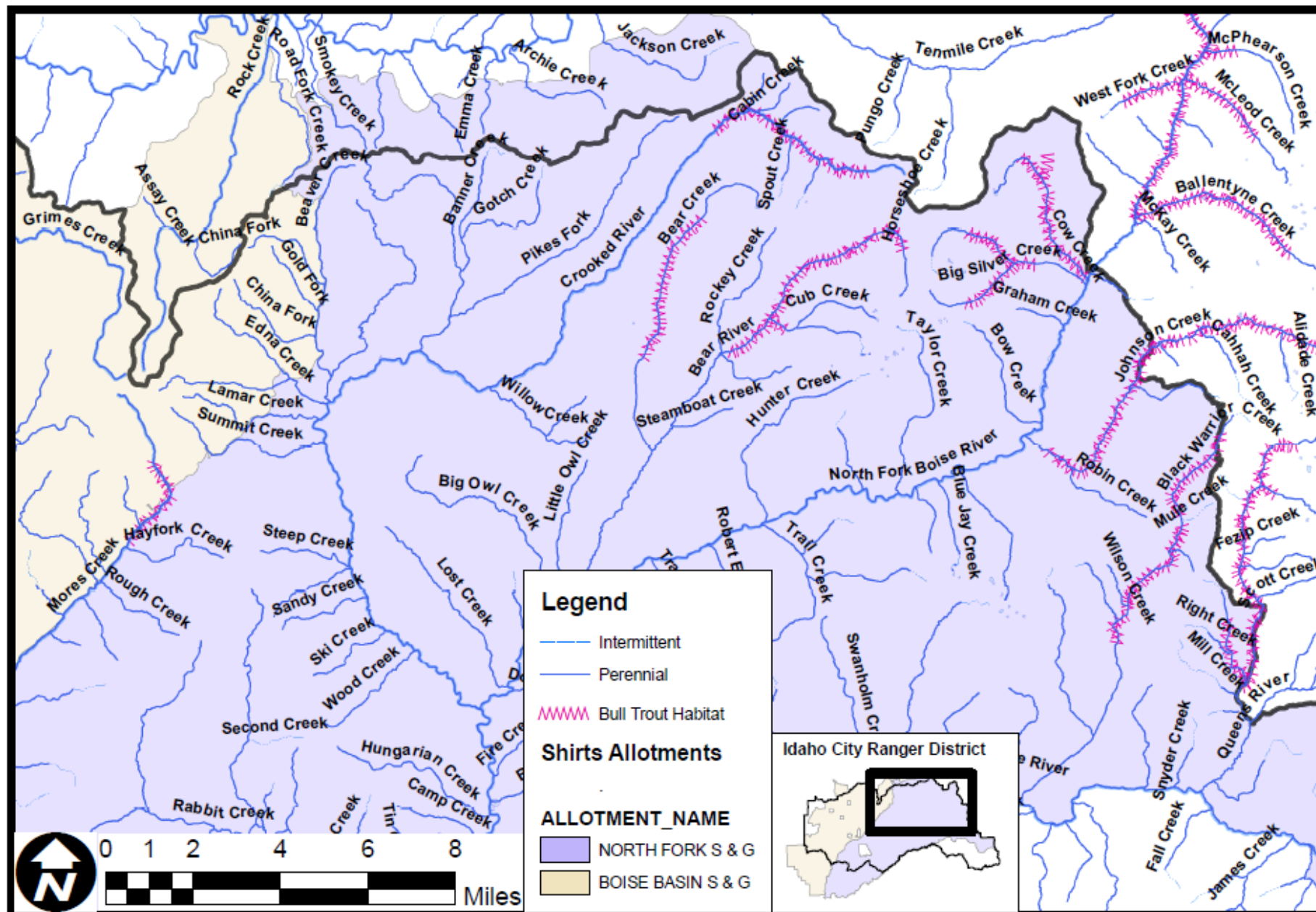
I understand that these Annual Operating Instructions are part of my term grazing permit and I agree to manage my livestock grazing operations consistent with this direction and the terms and conditions stipulated in my term grazing permit.

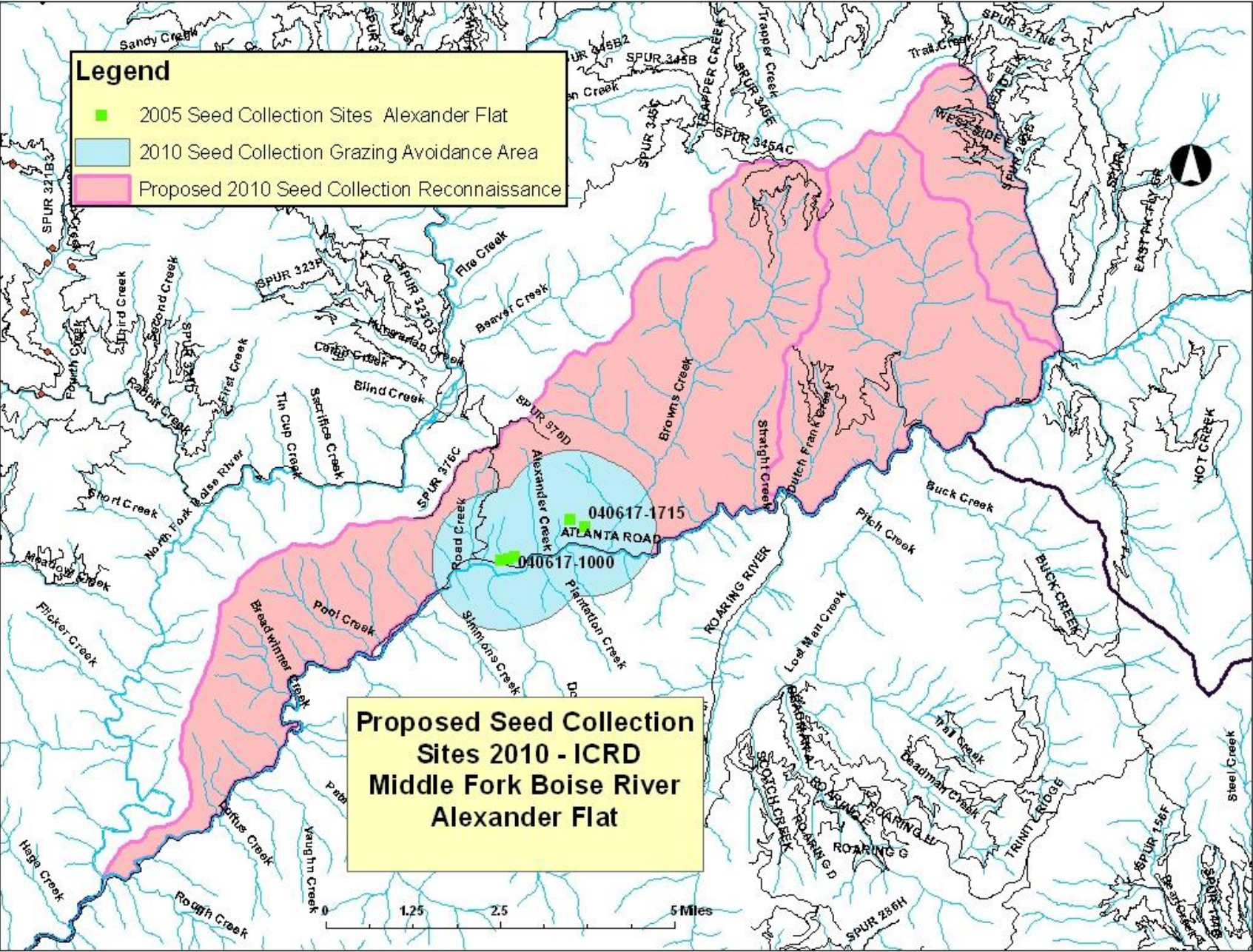
Frank Shirts

5/8/2010

Date

Bull trout focal habitat to be avoided after August 15





Appendix 3.

